

By the Board, Chairman Morgan, Vice Chairman Simmons, and Commissioner Owen.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble and under the authority of 49 U.S.C. 721(a), title 49, chapter X of the Code of Federal Regulations is amended as set forth below:

PART 1201—RAILROAD COMPANIES

1. The authority citations at Subpart A and Subpart B are removed and a new authority citation for part 1201 is added to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 553 and 49 U.S.C. 11142 and 11164.

Subpart A—[Amended]

2. In Subpart A, General Instructions, Instruction 1–3 is amended by removing paragraph (g).

PART 1262—[REMOVED]

3. Part 1262 is removed.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 675

[Docket No. 960129019–6019–01; I.D. 030196A]

Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area; Offshore Component Pollock in the Aleutian Islands Subarea

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Closure.

SUMMARY: NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for pollock by vessels catching pollock for processing by the offshore component in the Aleutian Islands subarea (AI) of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area (BSAI). This action is necessary to prevent exceeding the first allowance of the pollock total allowable catch (TAC) apportioned to vessels harvesting pollock for processing by the offshore component in the AI.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12 noon, Alaska local time (A.l.t.), March 2, 1996, until 12 noon, A.l.t., April 15, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Furuness, 907–586–7228.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The groundfish fishery in the BSAI exclusive economic zone is managed by NMFS according to the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (FMP) prepared by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council under authority of the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Fishing by U.S. vessels is governed by regulations implementing the FMP at 50 CFR parts 620 and 675.

In accordance with § 675.20(a)(7)(ii), the first allowance of pollock for vessels catching pollock for processing by the offshore component in the AI was established by the Final 1996 Harvest Specifications of Groundfish (61 FR 4311, February 5, 1996) as 19,669 metric tons (mt).

The Director, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Director), has determined in accordance with § 675.20(a)(8), that the first allowance of pollock TAC for vessels catching pollock for processing

by the offshore component in the AI soon will be reached. Therefore, the Regional Director has established a directed fishing allowance of 18,669 mt with consideration that 1,000 mt will be taken as incidental catch in directed fishing for other species in the AI. Consequently, NMFS is prohibiting directed fishing for pollock by vessels catching pollock for processing by the offshore component in the AI. This closure is effective noon, A.l.t., March 2, 1996, through noon, A.l.t., April 15, 1996. Under § 675.20(a)(2)(ii), the second allowance is available from noon, A.l.t., August 15 through the end of the fishing year.

Maximum retainable bycatch amounts for applicable gear types may be found in the regulations at § 675.20(h).

Classification

This action is taken under § 675.20 and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: March 1, 1996.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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